

## PARTIAL NEOTENY IN A COMMON NEWT

Noble (1929, Amer. Mus. Novitates, No. 348, pp. 1-22) in connection with observations on the life history of the newt, *Triturus v. viridescens*, reported a typical larva which contained fully formed spermatozoa. This was the first report of true neoteny in this species. In addition, many newts were partially neotenic in that they failed to complete metamorphosis and retained open gill-clefts, a more or less larval branchial apparatus, and gills partly or fully developed. Noble's investigations were conducted at Woods Hole on the Coastal Plain in Massachusetts but neotenic individuals of this newt have also been reported from other parts of the Coastal Plain as far south as New Jersey (Bishop, 1943, Handbook of Salamanders, p. 12).

In Maryland, judging from the number of normally transformed adults encountered in all parts of the state, neotenic newts are apparently the exception. It is therefore of interest to record a partially neotenic individual collected on Bear Island near Great Falls, Montgomery County. This locality is on the Piedmont Plateau about 10 miles west of its junction with the Coastal Plain. The specimen was taken from a small body of water occupying a river pot-hole. It had vestiges of gills and open gill-clefts and measured 72 mm. in total length. The average length of this species at transformation is about 36 mm. (Bishop, loc. cit., p. 103.) This is the only neotenic newt that has been noted among a number of individuals of this species collected from various ponds on the island where the immature, terrestrial red "eft" stage has also been found.

J. A. FOWLER